A
Governors State University

NATIVE AMERICAN AUTHORS

BROADCAST TITLE: Native American Authors
COURSE NUMBER: ENGL 558 S
REFERENCE NUMBER: 303955
CREDIT HOURS: 3
DESCRIPTION: Contemporary Native American Authors is an introduction to the fiction and poetry produced by contemporary Native Americans. Authors of the works studied will join the discussion of their work and concepts important to their work. Modes of discourse and the impact of Native American cultures, concerns and philosophy on the fiction and poetry of these authors will be the primary foci of the course.

TUITION AND FEES: Undergraduate: $291.00
Graduate: $306.00

INSTRUCTOR: Jacquelyn Kilpatrick, Ph.D.
(708) 534-6975

ORIENTATIONS: Friday, May 15, 1998, 6:30 p.m. OR Saturday, May 16, 1998, 11:00 a.m.

DISCUSSION: Friday, June 19, 1998 at 6:30 p.m.

FINAL EXAM: Notebook and final exam due: Friday, August 21, 1998

For students taking this class at a distance, please refer to the page, "Special Instructions for Distance Learners" contained in this packet.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Native American Authors Course Packet. Governors State University Printshop.


**VIDEOTAPES:**

22 one-hour videotapes

**VIEWING:**

- GSU Library
- Jones Intercable of the Southern Suburbs - Channel 26
- GSU Bookstore

**EXAMS, ETC.:**

There will be two class meetings (one at the beginning and one at mid-term.) Come prepared to ask questions about the course, the reading or the tapes. There will be two exams-one at mid-term and one at semester's end-both of these will be “take-home” exams. You will receive the midterm when we meet, and the final exam will be mailed to you. In addition to the final exam, you should mail photocopies of your responses to the prompts in the course guide. Do not send the whole guide-only your responses. These must reach the instructor (mail or place in professor's mailbox) by August 21, 1998.
GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Division of Liberal Arts  

Course Syllabus

Index Number: ENGL 558  
Course Title: Contemporary Native American Authors  
Professor: Jacquelyn Kilpatrick, Ph.D.  
(708) 534-6975  
Credit Hours: 3.0  
Trimester: Spring/Summer 1998  

Introduction

Welcome to “Contemporary Native American Authors.” This course is probably quite different from those you have taken before. For one thing, it is a telecourse, which means that you will be an independent learner in control of your own time, pace and depth of study. To get the most out of this class, I strongly suggest that you organize your study in advance, giving yourself plenty of time to read the texts, this study guide, and view the tapes (preferably twice). After viewing a tape, respond to each of the questions or suggestions in this guide. You will turn in your responses at the end of the semester. I also strongly suggest that you keep a reading journal. As you read the novels or poems and as you view the tapes, jot down your responses for future reference.

This course is probably the first Native American Literature course you have taken, and in that way it is somewhat different as well. As with all literatures whose ethnic, cultural base is outside that of the dominant culture, there are some fundamental differences between Native American Literature and other American literatures you have read. There are many similarities as well, as you will soon see. A good background in Native cultures would of course be helpful in reading this literature, but this course is structured to give you some of that background, so don’t despair if you know little about the Native American experience at the beginning. This course can only give you an introduction to Native American Literature, but if you listen and read carefully, it will be an excellent introduction.

The third way in which this course differs from others is that the authors of each of the works assigned will speak for themselves, answering students’ questions and reading from their work. This rather extraordinary element produces the most meaningful of class discussions, which I think you will enjoy and benefit from joining.
Course Description

Contemporary Native American Authors is an introduction to the fiction and poetry produced by contemporary Native Americans. Authors of the works studied will join the discussion of their work and concepts important to their work. Modes of discourse and the impact of Native American cultures, concerns and philosophy on the fiction and poetry of these authors will be the primary foci of the course.

Included in this study guide are additional stories, essays and articles which will be helpful in broadening your base of knowledge about the issues discussed in the tapes. In addition to these, it is very strongly recommended that you read the following:


The list of excellent Native American authors is long and growing steadily, and it is therefore impossible to read all of the "important" literature for one course. However, the three authors above have contributed immensely to the development of Native American Literature, and familiarity with their work is imperative to a sound background in the subject. Although their schedules did not permit them to be part of the taping of this course, their inclusion in the reading will be well worth the extra effort.

Expected Student Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to recognize the major elements in Native American writing which set it apart from other American writing, understand some of the major issues impacting the cultures and literatures depicted in the texts, and have developed an appreciation for an "other way of knowing."